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ROYAL CUMMINGS, Proprietor.
T. H. HOSKINS, M. D., Editor.

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THE SMITTEN CITY.

BY GEORGE ALFRED TOWNSEND.

I heard a parson of the school of Balaam
Lift up the lesson of the flaming town,
And, like a peddler in the will of Heaven,
Show how its sins invoked the sovereign frown.

Thus the dead lion ever is insulted
By asses' colts, whose pity is a blow,
And fallen empires find their last misfortune
In shallow platitudes from fool and foe.

Bright Christian capital of lakes and prairie,
Heaven had no interest in thy scourge and scath;
Thou wert the newest shrine of our religion,
The youngest witness of our hope and faith.

Not in thy embers do we rake for folly,
But like a martyr's ashes gather thee,
With chastened pride and tender melancholy,—
The miracle thou wast, and yet will be!

Not merely in the homages of churches,
Or bells of praise tolled o'er the inland seas,—
Thou glorified our God and human nature
With meeter words and grander melodies.

Of cheerful toil and willing enterprise,
Of hearty faith in freedom and in man,
The hoar old capitals looked on in wonder
To see the swift, strong race this stripling ran.

How like the sun he rose above the marshes,
And built the world beneath his airy feet,
And changed the course of immortal rivers,
And tapped the lake for waters cool and sweet.

How skillfully the golden grain transmuted
To birds of sail and meteors of spark,
And, like another Noah, bade creation
March in the teeming masses of his ark.

Yet in his power, most frank and democratic,
He roused no envious witness of his joy;
And in the stature of the prince and hero,
We saw the laughing dimples of a boy.

Still wise and apt among the oldest merchants,
His young example steered the wary mart,
And amplest credit poured its gold around him,
And trade imperial gave scope for art.

His architecture passed all heathen splendor,
The immigrating Goth drew wondering near.
To see his shafts and arches tall and slender
Branch o'er the new homes of this pioneer.

The Greek and Roman there might see rebuked
In vastness equal and in style as pure,
The merchant's markets like a palace gilded,
With marble walls and deep entablature.

His two-score bridges swinging on their pivots,
The long and laden line of vessels sped,
While he, impatient, marched beneath the sluices
His hosts, like Cyrus, on the river bed.

Then, when all weak predictions proved but scandal,
And the wild marshes grew a sovereign's home,
A dozing cow o'erset an archin's candle,—
Once more a fool had fired the Ephesian dome.

The artless winds that blew o'er plains of cattle,

And cooled the corn through all the summer days,
Plunged like wild steers in pastime or in battle,
Straight in the blinding brightness of the blaze.

And down fell bridge, and parapet, and lintel,
The blazing barques went drifting, one by one,
The mighty city wrapped its head in splendor,
And sank into the waters like a sun.

Oh! thou my master, champion of the people,
Tribune, august, who e'er kept righteous court,
Long after fire had toppled church and steeple,
Thou stoodst amid the ruins like a fort.

High and serene thy cornices extended,
Though scorched by smoke and of the flame the prey,
Above the vault where, grim, and calm and splendid,
The sleeping lions of thy presses lay;

Till looking round thee in the wondrous pity,
Thyself alone erect, intact, unprepared,
Disdaining to outlive the glorious city,
With innate heat transfigured, disappeared.

Yet, from the grave, Chicago's wondrous spirit
Comes forth all brightness, o'er the darkened town,
To say again: "Lo, I am with you, brethren;
With all my thorns I wear my civic crown.

To die is sweet embalmed in your compassion;
Your oil and wine make life in every rent.
Oh! let me lean a little while upon you,
And walk to strength in your encouragement."
—Cincinnati Commercial.

DR. LIVINGSTONE.

In the uncertainty still attending the fate of Dr. Livingstone, one of the last letters of the great traveler to Sir Thomas Maclear of Cape Town will not be uninteresting, as it contains a striking passage in which the Doctor expresses a presentiment of his death. It reads: "Dr. Kirk, I am sorry to say, will soon leave us, and I suppose I shall die in these uplands, and somebody else will carry out the plans I have longed to put into practice. I have been thinking a great deal since the departure of my beloved one about the region whither she has gone, and imagine, from the manner the Bible describes it, we have got too much mockery in our ideas. There will be work there as well as here, and possibly not such a vast difference in our being as is expected; but a short time there will give more insight than a thousand musings. We shall see Him by whose inexpressible love and mercy we got there, and all whom we loved and all the loveable. I can sympathize with you more fully than I did before. I work with as much vigor as I can, and mean to do so till the change comes; but the prospect of a home is all dispelled."

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS OF BENNINGTON CO., CENSUS OF 1870.

ACRES OF LAND. Improved 127,006 Woods 61,079; other unimproved, 2,385; Cash value, of farms, \$6,340,195; farm implements and machinery, \$211,621; wages paid during the year, \$208,421.

LIVE STOCK. Horses, 2,529; mules and asses, 4; cows, 5,659; oxen, 524; other cattle, 4,019; sheep, 32,068; swine, 2,592. Value of all live stock \$887,167.

GRAIN. Spring wheat, 7,379 bushels; winter 50; rye, 7,561; corn, 108,537; oats, 161,876; barley, 6,379; buckwheat, 18,379; peas and beans, 155.

WOOL. 146,419 pounds.

POTATOES. 198,791 bushels.

ORCHARDS. Product \$9,001.

BUTTER. 412,092 pounds.

CHEESE. 416,655 pounds.

MILK. Sold 107,135 gallons.

HAY. 35,542 tons.

SEEDS. Grass 145 bushels; flax seed 436 bushels.

FLAX. 12,000 pounds.

SUGAR. Maple, 170,268 pounds; molasses 84 gallons.

BEEES. Honey, 445 pounds; wax 40.

FOREST PRODUCT. \$23,332.

ANIMALS. Slaughtered or sold for slaughter, \$88,514.

VALUE. As estimated, of all farm productions, \$1,160,545.

The Banner says: "We think some of the items are manifestly too low. Among which are farm products. That should be more than doubled. Maple molasses ought to count more than 84 gallons surely. If the census was to be taken this year, instead of last, the item of milk sold would be greatly increased, also as the result of large quantities now sent to New York city."

JAPANESE FARMING.

Hon. James Brooks writes from Japan:—I thought once, when on the Nile, that the Egyptians, who could turn sands into gardens, were the great farmers of the world; but the Egyptians could make no such farming gardens as these. Proud as I am of the arts, sciences, and marvelous doings of my own country, I blush when I compare American farming with this! Here are the rice fields artificially created, luxuriant in beauty now, terraced from hill-side, up and down, and watered by the hill streams, or not watered, as the husbandman wills. There are barley fields, and bean fields and fields of all sorts of Japan agricultural productions. Forests cap all the hill-tops. Two crops are raised in Japan in one year, even on the rice fields, where the first crop is grain. The grain harvest is over in April or May. The rains come on in June and July, and now the new crops are up, and the whole country is one beautiful landscape of green.

GROWTH OF PLANTS IN AQUEOUS SOLUTIONS.

Experiments have been prosecuted of late by German physiologists in regard to the cultivation of plants in aqueous solutions of different substances, without the addition of any earth; and, as the general result, we are informed that a plant will grow, bloom, and ripen fruit, without being inserted in soil of any kind, but simply in a liquid which contains eight different substances, namely: potash, lime, magnesia, iron sulphuric acid, phosphoric acid, chlorine, and nitric acid, the nitric acid being capable of being replaced by ammonia or hippuric acid, uric acid, &c. It is further more stated that neither the nitrogen compounds, iron, nor any other of these eight bodies can be omitted from the fluid in question if the plants are to pass through their various stages of

development without becoming bleached or prematurely dwarfed. It is also shown by the experiments that while only these eight bodies are necessary elements of our culture-plants, others, found in ashes, such as silicic acid, manganese, copper, fluorine and soda, are to be considered, if not essential, at any rate useful. Finally, the experiments appear to show that a plant is capable of deriving the whole of the carbon necessary for its growth, for the increase of its foliage, for the formation of sugar, starch, &c., from the atmospheric air, in the form of carbonic acid, by means of the stomata of its leaves. This novel method of prosecuting investigations upon the growth of plants and the formation of their tissues and components, it is believed, tends much towards securing exact results in such researches, and in time may enable us to acquire a thorough knowledge of the phenomena involved.—Report Department Agriculture.

THE ART OF LIVING TOGETHER.

1. If people are to live happily together they must not fancy, because they are thrown together now, that all their lives have been exactly similar up to the present time, that they started exactly alike, and that they are to be for the future exactly of the same mind.

2. Avoid having stock subjects of disputation.

3. Do not hold too much to logic, and suppose that everything is to be settled by sufficient reason.

4. If you would be loved as a companion, avoid unnecessary criticism upon those with whom you live.

5. Let not familiarity swallow up all courtesy.

6. We must not expect more from the society of our friends and companions than it can give; and especially must not expect contrary things.

UNJUST DEALINGS WITH FARMERS.

An Illinois correspondent of the Department of Agriculture complains of the practice of buyers in his region, who, in their dealings with farmers, contrive to obtain 60 pounds of shelled corn to the bushel, or 70 pounds in the ear, dry, selling the same in the Chicago market at the legal rate of 56 pounds of shelled corn to the bushel, equivalent to 70 pounds of dry corn. Rye is also bought from first hands at 60 pounds to the bushel, and put on the market at the legal rate of 56 pounds. He urges farmers to make common cause against these practices, and wherever they are persisted in, to club and ship their corn, etc., directly to the large markets. A united protest and refusal to sell at unlegalized rates will remedy the injustice.

A person being asked what was meant by the realities of life, answered: "Real estate, real money, and a real good dinner, none of which can be realized without real hard work."